



# Lawn Removal Rebate Program



**Rebate Amount:**     **\$1.00 sq/ft of lawn removed**  
                               \$1,000 Maximum Rebate for Single Family Residential Customers\*  
                               \$5,000 Maximum Rebate for Multi-Family and Commercial Customers\*

## Eligibility Requirements and Checklist

- Lawns must be well-maintained, and irrigated with an in-ground sprinkler system in good working order. (**Lawn removed before a pre-inspection site visit will not qualify for the rebate**). No exceptions.
- The property must be at a location served by the City of Santa Cruz Water Department. The applicant must be the property owner or an authorized agent. One rebate per property is allowed per year.
- All projects must be approved prior to lawn removal and replacement.** An on-site pre-approval inspection and post-conversion inspection are required.
- Lawn must be replaced with very low or low water use plants or permeable landscape surfaces such as artificial turf, decomposed granite, permeable pavers etc.
- Planted areas must be covered with at least 2” of mulch material. If a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.
- The existing sprinklers in the lawn removal area must be removed, capped in place or converted to low volume drip. Any remaining landscape near the converted area must be irrigated with a separate valve.
- No irrigation system is required. However, a separately valved, drip irrigation system with a filter and pressure regulation is allowed in the converted landscape area. The system must be in good working order, free of leaks and malfunctions, and designed to avoid runoff.

## How to Participate:

1. Call the Water Conservation Office at 831-420-5230 to schedule a pre-inspection site visit.
2. After the pre-inspection site visit and project approval, you may proceed with your lawn removal. **Your project must receive pre-approval in order to qualify for the rebate.**
3. When your project is completed, call the Water Conservation Office to schedule a final inspection.
4. Complete and submit the rebate application form.

## Pre-project Inspection Details:

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_     **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_     **Eligible Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Deadline for Rebate:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Water Conservation Representative*

\*One rebate per property per calendar year.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Lawn Removal Rebate

### **How long do I have to complete my lawn conversion project?**

The project must be completed and inspected within one year from the date of the pre-project inspection in order to be eligible for rebate.

### **I've already replaced my lawn with water efficient plants. Can I still get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is not retroactive and cannot provide rebates for projects that were started prior to receiving a pre-inspection project approval. The program is intended to provide an incentive to retrofit existing lawns.

### **I hand water my lawn. Can I get a rebate?**

No. The rebate is currently for customers who water with an in-ground irrigation system.

### **Do I have to have a pre and post inspection?**

Yes. Both are required to qualify for the rebate.

### **What can I replace my lawn with to qualify for the rebate?**

You may choose very low or low water use plants, and/or permeable hardscapes such as permeable pavers, gravel, flagstone, decomposed granite, artificial turf, etc.

### **Can I receive a rebate for replacing my high water use lawn with low water use lawn?**

No. The program provides incentive to convert lawns to alternative types of water-efficient landscaping including native bunch grasses. One of the goals of the program is to provide visible examples of water-efficient landscapes that can be alternatives to lawns.

### **What materials do not qualify for a rebate?**

Non-qualifying materials include: **seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, medium and high water use plants, lawn ornaments, impervious surfaces, cement, decking, curbing, hot tubs, pools, building extensions, retaining walls, sheds, trellises, play ground materials, and fences.**

### **Can I get a rebate for installing a new landscape?**

No. The rebate is an incentive to remove existing high water use landscapes and irrigation equipment.

### **Where can I learn more about very low and low water use plants?**

- Very Low and Low Water Use Plant List: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate)
- Water Smart Gardening in Santa Cruz County: [www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com](http://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com)
- *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates* by East Bay MUD
- Water Use Classification of Landscape Species or WUCOLS ([www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf))
- Check plant labels and ask about options at your favorite nursery

For further information contact the Water Conservation Office  
831-420-5230  
[www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/lawnrebate)

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